

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 IO-14 L-03 CG-00
DOTE-00 DODE-00 INT-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
DLOS-09 EB-07 TRSE-00 AGRE-00 /065 W
-----050990 141436Z /47

R 141155Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4767

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 COPENHAGEN 4178

STATE FOR OES/OFA

PASS COMMERCE, NMFS/BLONDIN, NOAA/WALLACE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, NEAFC

SUBJECT: NORTHEAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION ANNUAL MEETING,
LONDON

1. SUMMARY. NEAFC CONCLUDED ITS FIFTEENTH ANNUAL MEET-

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ING WITH A NEW DRAFT CONVENTION WHICH WILL BE DISCUSSED AT
ANOTHER CONFERENCE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 1977.
THE STILL BRACKETED DOCUMENT HAS MANY SECTIONS TAKEN FROM
THE PROPOSED NEW ICNAF CONVENTION. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
ICES LIAISON COMMITTEE REITERATED, SLIGHTLY MORE EMPHA-
TICALLY THAN BEFORE, THE POOR CONDITION OF SOME OF THE
FISH STOCKS IN THE NEAFC ZONE AND THE NECESSITY TO REDUCE

OR ELIMINATE QUOTAS FOR SOME OF THE IMPORTANT FOOD FISH SPECIES. END SUMMARY.

2. THE EC HAD MAILED A DRAFT COPY OF THEIR VERSION OF THE NEW CONVENTION TO NEAFC HEADQUARTERS ON JUNE 20, 1977. THIS DID NOT PERMIT ENOUGH TIME FOR NEAFC TO DISTRIBUTE COPIES TO ALL MEMBERS BEFORE THE SCHEDULED MEETING. SOME MEMBERS, PARTICULARLY THE EAST-BLOC COUNTRIES, WERE RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS THE EC VERSION UNTIL THEY RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM THEIR GOVERNMENTS. HOWEVER, DISCUSSIONS FINALLY BEGAN AND A CONSOLIDATED DRAFT CONVENTION OF THE EC AND THE NEAFC WORKING PARTY VERSIONS WAS COMPLETED. (COPY BEING POUCHED). THE POLISH DELEGATE, MR. VONAU, HEAD OF POLISH SHIPPING MISSION, LONDON, WAS THE CHIEF SPOKESMAN FOR EAST-BLOC COUNTRIES. EC OBSERVER MARCUSSEN VERY ABLY LED THE EC MEMBERS.

3. THE LIAISON COMMITTEE REPORTED THAT HERRING STOCKS IN GENERAL WERE STILL IN A STATE OF SEVERE DEPLETION ALTHOUGH THERE WERE SIGNS OF RECOVERY OF THE ATLANTIC-SCANDIAN HERRING STOCK. NORTH SEA HERRING CONTINUED TO DECLINE. FISHING EFFORT HAD INCREASED ON THE STOCKS OF SAITHE, NORTH SEA COD, HADDOCK AND WHITING.

4. THE LIAISON COMMITTEE GAVE THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS
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FOR INDIVIDUAL FISH STOCKS:

A. THE MAIN OBJECTIVE WITH NORTHEAST ARCTIC COD IS TO PERMIT THE SPAWING STOCK TO INCREASE TO A LEVEL OF ONE MILLION TONS. THE COMMITTEE, THEREFORE, RECOMMENDED A 1978 TAC (TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH) OF 850,000 TONS, THE SAME CATCH LEVEL TAKEN IN RECENT YEARS. NORTHEAST ARCTIC HADDOCK ARE TAKEN MAINLY AS A BY-CATCH IN THE COD FISHING. THIS STOCK HAS DECLINED, BUT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO MANAGE THE STOCK INDEPENDENTLY. THE LIAISON COMMITTEE, THEREFORE, RECOMMENDED THAT THE TAC FOR COD AND HADDOCK COMBINED IN 1978 SHOULD BE ONE MILLION TONS.

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B. REGARDING THE FAROESE FISH STOCKS THE COMMITTEE
CONSIDERED THAT FISHING MORTALITY FOR COD SHOULD BE
REDUCED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE; BUT TO AVOID SEVERE ECONOMIC
DISRUPTION, IT WAS PROPOSED THAT THE REDUCTION SHOULD BE
PROGRESSIVE. THEY RECOMMENDED A 1978 COD TAC OF 30,000
TONS. HADDOCK FISHING MORTALITY IS ALSO STILL TOO HIGH
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AND A 1978 TAC OF 17,000 TONS WAS RECOMMENDED.

C. SINCE 1973 THERE HAS BEEN A RENEWAL OF THE ATLANTIC-
SCANDIAN HERRING STOCKS. THE COMMITTEE REPORTED A
BIOLOGICAL PHENOMENA THAT THESE HERRING STOCKS ARE NOW
REACHING MATURITY AT THE AGE OF 3 RATHER THAN THE AGE
OF 5, AND THAT THIS INCREASED THE POTENTIAL FOR RECOVER.
IN 1974 THE SPAWNING STOCK TOTALED 70,000 TONS,

IN 1975 IT WAS 80,000 TONS, IN 1976 IT WAS 125,000 TONS, IN 1977 IT WILL BE 200,000 TONS, AND IN 1978 IT WILL INCREASE TO 400,000 TONS IF THERE IS NO FISHING EFFORT. DURING THIS RECOVERY PERIOD THE STOCKS ARE FOUND ONLY OFF THE NORWEGIAN COAST AND HAVE NOT RESUMED THEIR OLD ANNUAL MIGRATION TOWARDS ICELAND. DESPITE THE RECOMMENDATION FOR A ZERO QUOTA THE NORWEGIAN DELEGATE ANNOUNCED HIS GOVERNMENT WILL PERMIT A SMALL QUOTA IN 1977, BETWEEN 10 AND 15 THOUSAND TONS FOR NORWEGIAN FISHERMEN.

D. THE SPAWNING STOCKS OF NORTH SEA HERRING ARE DOWN TO DANGEROUSLY LOW LEVELS AND UNLESS THE BAN ON DIRECTED FISHING, WHICH BEGAN IN 1976, IS NOT CONTINUED THE STOCK WILL PROBABLY NOT PRODUCE HIGHER RECRUITMENT. IN 1977 THE SPAWNING STOCK OF NORTH SEA HERRING IS 185,000 TONS, IN 1978 IT COULD INCREASE TO 290,000 TONS AND IN 1979, 400,000 TONS. THIS IS STILL AN EXTREMELY LOW LEVEL AND THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED VERY STRONGLY A COMPLETE BAN ON ALL DIRECTED FISHERIES FOR NORTH SEA HERRING.

E. SOME DELEGATES SAID THAT NORTH SEA SPRAT STOCKS WERE INCREASING AND POSSIBLY MOVING INTO THE ECOLOGICAL NICHE ONCE OCCUPIED BY THE HERRING, NEVERTHELESSTHE COMMITTEE UNCLASSIFIED

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RECOMMENDED A 1978 TAC OF 400,000 TONS.

F. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT EXPLOITATION OF COD, HADDOCK AND WHITING IN THE NORTH SEA WAS TOO HIGH AND THAT FISHING EFFORT SHOULD BE REDUCED IN INCREMENTS OF 10 PERCENT UNTIL THESE STOCKS SHOW SIGN OF RECOVERY. THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THE FOLLOWING QUOTAS FOR 1978; COD 220,000 TONS, HADDOCK 105,000 TONS AND WHITING 160,000 TONS.

G. MACKERAL STOCKS HAVE BEEN SHOWING A SHARP DECLINE DURING THE PAST THREE YEARS. IN THE WESTERN STOCKS (WEST OF UK AND IRELAND) THERE IS NOW CLEAR EVIDENCE OF AN INCREASE IN THE RATE OF EXPLOITATION OF JUVENILE MACKERAL. TO CURB THIS DEVELOPMENT THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED A PROHIBITION ON FISHING FOR MACKERAL FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES BELOW A SIZE OF 30 CM. FOR THE WESTERN STOCKS. THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED THE FOLLOWING MAKERAL QUOTAS: NORTH SEA; 1977, 220,000 TONS, 1978 190,000 TONS; WESTERN AREA, 1977, 250,000 TONS, 1978, 240,000 TONS.

5. NOW IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF THE EC AND OTHER

COASTAL COUNTRIES IN NEAFC WILL FOLLOW THE RECOMMENDED CONSER-
VATION MEASURES GIVEN BY THE ICES LIAISON COMMITTEE.
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Message Attributes

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